

2010

# Charles Rowe Bridge Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment for Disaster Risk Reduction



Barbados Red Cross Society

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Humanitarian Aid

## **The International Federation's Global Agenda (2006–2010)**

Over the next two years, the collective focus of the Federation will be on achieving the following goals and priorities:

### **Our goals**

**Goal 1:** Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.

**Goal 2:** Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.

**Goal 3:** Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.

**Goal 4:** Promote respect for diversity and human dignity, and reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion.

### **Our priorities**

Improving our local, regional and international capacity to respond to disasters and public health emergencies.

Scaling up our actions with vulnerable communities in health promotion, disease prevention and disaster risk reduction.

Increasing significantly our HIV/AIDS programming and advocacy.

Renewing our advocacy on priority humanitarian issues, especially fighting intolerance, stigma and discrimination, and promoting disaster risk reduction

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*Cover photo: International Federation*

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Caribbean Regional Reporting Office  
110 Picton Street Port of Spain  
Trinidad, W.I.

Telephone: 1 (868) 622-4700

Fax: 1 (868) 628-9715

Web site: [www. Caribbeanredcross.org](http://www.Caribbeanredcross.org)

## Foreword

### Charles Rowe Bridge

This is our community  
Your Charles Rowe Bridge  
My Charles Rowe Bridge  
Coming together, this is unity  
Let we learn we risks  
What are our vulnerabilities?  
Cause right now we deciding our destiny

You bring your cutlass  
I will bring me van  
Where de nurse is?  
Call out de man  
Rally de youts  
Leh we put together a plan  
We protecting we children  
We elderly  
Mr. Sealy wid he one foot  
And Sister Bev gine need a hand  
We say God must be a Bajan  
But sooner or later it bound tuh happen

We cahn afford to wait  
Cause den it gine be too late  
We can't leff Charles Rowe Bridge future up to fate

We building a team to lead de way  
We spreading de message far and wide  
Soon de whole country gine say  
***"Disaster preparedness is de way."***

*Written By: Deniese Dennis  
Field Officer, Barbados Red Cross Society*

*Date: June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010*

## **Introduction**

The Barbados Red Cross Society is one of the recipients of funding under the regional ECHO-funded project titled 'Building Safer, More Resilient Communities'. This project complements the current Disaster Preparedness ECHO DIPECHO VII Action Plan which has not only given an allocation for community and national society preparedness but has also targeted the Barbados Red Cross as the location for a Resource Centre to develop and enhance the disaster management tools and methodologies in the English-speaking Caribbean.

This initiative falls under the National Society's wider Disaster Management Program and includes community first aid training; the formation, training and equipping of community disaster response teams; development of family and community disaster plans; simulation exercises; vulnerability and capacity assessment and community awareness meetings.

The Charles Rowe Bridge area was selected as one of two communities in Barbados under the 'Building Safer, More Resilient Communities' project. It was included in a shortlist of six (6) of the most at-risk communities to disasters and hazards, which was a key output of a national stakeholders' meeting held at the Accra Beach Hotel on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2010. The criteria used to develop a shortlist of communities included:

- History of disaster impact
- Located in a high risk area e.g. low-lying, flood prone, industrial area
- Community's vulnerability to a range of hazards e.g. fires, waste disposal practices, sea/storm surge, landslides, flooding
- Other contributing factors e.g. high levels of poverty, large vulnerable groups, livelihoods, unsafe building practices

The project team developed a set of criteria to select two communities from the shortlist. These criteria included:

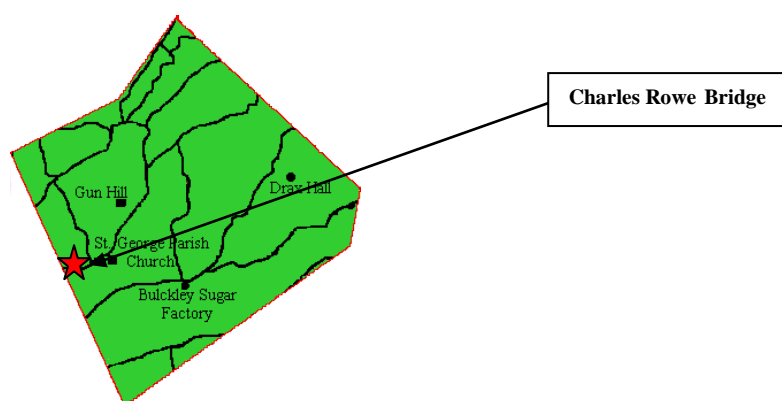
- Anticipated community interest/buy-in from community stakeholders
- Structured community group presence e.g. District Emergency Organisation (DEO), youth groups, neighbourhood watches
- Rural and urban geographical spread
- Scope of project in relation to available project resources (time, cost and manpower)
- Project duration
- Likelihood of sustainability of micro-projects beyond formal project end date
- Support from the national Department of Emergency Management and other key stakeholders represented at the national stakeholders' meeting

## **Why the VCA tool**

The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) is a process of participatory investigation which is designed to assess and address major risks affecting communities. It aims to determine people's vulnerabilities to those risks, and assess their capacity to cope and recover from a disaster. It enables people to prepare for hazards and prevent them from turning into disasters by helping them to:

- Gather baseline information, which serves as a crucial reference for emergency needs following a disaster
- Better understand their environment in relation to predicted risks and hazards
- Increase awareness of their capacities to cope with risks and hazards
- Reach agreement with local authorities on actions needed to prevent and reduce potential effects of a disaster
- Implement and evaluate projects in the areas of prevention, preparedness and risk reduction


## Geographical Coverage for the VCA Process



The Charles Rowe Bridge community has assessed their area in order to:

1. Map and identify the vulnerabilities and hazards.
2. Determine and map the resources and skills present in the community.
3. Identify the main issues and any associated actions which can be implemented by the community to reduce/mitigate the risks.
4. Develop proposals to aid in the selection of a suitable micro-project which addresses one of the main issues identified.

This document shares the results of these assessments undertaken by community members over the period Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 from Charles Rowe Bridge/Sir Garfield Sobers Gymnasium.

 <p>International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Caribbean Regional Representation Office 110 Picton Street Port of Spain, Trinidad Tel: (868) 628-2439 / 7289 Fax: (868) 628-7289 web: <a href="http://www.caribbeanredcross.org">www.caribbeanredcross.org</a></p>	<p>Barbados Red Cross Society Jemmotts Lane St. Michael Tel: (246) 426-2052 Fax: (246) 426-2052</p>
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## Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

The Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment workshop was conducted over a four day period with a group of seventeen (17) participants. Participants included members of community groups from the Charles Rowe Bridge area, existing and former residents of the community, members of the District Emergency Organization for St. George North, volunteers and staff of the Barbados Red Cross Society.

The workshop was delivered in a practical, modular format which has been presented in three sections in this report. Those sections are Community Risk Assessment – Mapping, Analysis, and Project Proposal development. In addition two annexes have been attached for additional background and supporting information. A report of the national stakeholder's meeting held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 is attached (Annex 1) as a record of the process undertaken to develop a shortlist of communities in which the 'Building Safer, More Resilient Communities' project could be implemented. Annex 2 is the Baseline Study conducted prior to the VCA workshop in order to provide some relevant primary data for this report.

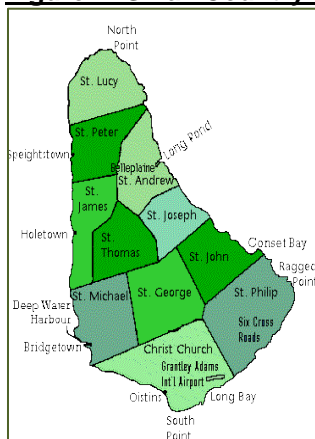
### Section 1

#### **Community Risk Assessment - Mapping**

Mapping is a way of setting out in visual form the layout of the community. It is one of the critical tools used in the VCA process as it captures highly relevant information for institutions working on disaster risk reduction initiatives and can be used as secondary data, whenever available. It offers an opportunity to identify detailed information about vulnerabilities and capacities, as well as noting living conditions, behavior and environmental factors. It provides greater awareness of the actual reality on the ground, and complements geographical information.

Maps facilitate communication and stimulate discussion on important issues in the community. They help people to quickly understand complex relationships and allow visual comparison of information. Community maps are useful for assessment, planning, monitoring and evaluation. There are three main kinds of community maps which were used in this process. They are the ***hazard/vulnerability***, ***spatial*** and ***resource/capacity*** maps.

**Figure 1: Small Country Map**





**Figure 2: Aerial Photograph of Charles Rowe Bridge and Surrounding Districts**



## Spatial Map

The spatial map gives an overview of the main features of the area in relation to its surroundings. Map features include the arrangement of houses, pastures and fields, roads and other land uses and indicates which resources are accessible and owned by the community or individuals.

**Figure 3: Spatial Map of Charles Rowe Bridge Community**



## Hazard/Vulnerability Map

This map shows the hazards or risks within the community and indicates which ones pose a threat and when, which ones are predictable or occur after heavy rains. It also shows where risks have been getting worse and identifies vulnerable people or groups in the community.



**Figure 4 – Hazard/Vulnerability Map of Charles Rowe Bridge**



Below is a table which outlines the main hazards identified by the participants.

Main Hazards in Charles Rowe Bridge		
The location of the gas station in proximity to other businesses and residences. This suggested the need for all persons in the area to know how to respond should a fire, oil spill or emergency occur.	Lack of pedestrian crossing around the Charles Rowe Bridge junction, between the gas station and supermarket and along Arthurs Road	Poor maintenance of drains and poor drainage leads to flooding which is very problematic and affects the Valley, the area approaching the Charles Rowe Bridge junction and the run off just past Chefette on Lower Estate Road. This requires some attention in order to improve water course management.
Lack of awareness of disaster issues, potential risks and resources amongst the residents and community groups	There is a derelict house in the Parish Land area close to the bridge which needs to be demolished. It is currently a breeding ground for vermin and a potential haven for drug addicts and criminal activity.	Small off-shoot roads require proper paving as opposed to patching since they are dug out during heavy rains.
More public standpipes required	Unemployment & Underemployment	There is a need for improved lighting in Parish Land
The need for road humps should be placed along the Valley main road to deter speeding	Bridge (safety) – The bridge at Paris Land needs better security rails. Small children live at a house nearby and could fall into	The vegetation in the Parish Land gully area is very dense and needs to be cleared ahead of heavy rains to prevent a

Main Hazards in Charles Rowe Bridge		
	the gully if running or playing along the bridge.	blockage.
Trees across the community require trimming and removing in some instances	Inadequate facilities for the disabled	Run-down or dilapidated houses
Improper disposal of garbage		
Other Hazards Identified By the Group Include:		
Lack of self-respect among the youth and for others	Need for training for the youth and unemployed at low costs	Insufficient medical doctors
Lack of youth involvement in community group activities	Insufficient knowledge of alternative livelihoods in the community	Poor communication amongst the neighbours
Lack of information available on the history of the area	Inadequate number of emergency shelters	Insufficient farming and agriculture
Poor signage at the Charles Rowe Bridge junction	Insufficient home help for the elderly	Insufficient child care facilities

## Resource/Capacity Map

This type of map shows the resources and capacities located within the community. These include land use zones, skilled persons, equipment and businesses which can assist in the event of an emergency. Below is a table which captures the resources and capacities of the community as identified by the group.

Resource and Capacity Listing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bottled water factory</li> <li>Ice factory</li> <li>Doctors</li> <li>Nurses</li> <li>Public market</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pharmacy</li> <li>Public polyclinic</li> <li>Library</li> <li>Resource/community centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post office</li> <li>Supermarket</li> <li>Churches</li> <li>Schools (2)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fruit trees (wide range)</li> <li>Craftsmen (i.e. carpenters, masons, tillers, labourers etc)</li> <li>Police station</li> <li>DEO members live in area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stand pipes</li> <li>Several meeting areas and shelters</li> <li>Cooperation from the community</li> <li>Thelma Vaughn Memorial Home (for the disabled)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surepay(bill payment) and ATM facilities</li> <li>Chicken farm/supplier</li> <li>Bakery</li> <li>Gas station</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persons willing to assist in disaster planning</li> <li>Good road network</li> <li>Restaurants</li> <li>Breadfruit trees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarry</li> <li>Playing fields</li> <li>Trucking company</li> <li>Transport/coach company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barbers</li> <li>Hardware stores</li> <li>Community centre</li> <li>Well-educated and qualified individuals in several fields</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EMT specialist</li> <li>Several active community groups</li> <li>Animal feed manufacturing company</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All utilities available throughout the community (i.e. electricity, water and telephone)</li> </ul>	

**Figure 5: Resource and Capacity Map**



## **Section 2 - Analysis**

Data collection is an integral part of the VCA exercise. It helps to provide a first impression and overview of the community, the problems it faces and the capacities available to address them. Various tools can be used to conduct observation and analysis. The tools used during the workshop and to inform this report include direct observation, mapping (refer to Section 1), seasonal calendar, historical profile, livelihoods and coping analysis, social network analysis and a community baseline assessment (see Annex 2).

The community has been affected by a range of hazards and disasters including flooding, fire, rotting/aged trees and hurricanes. It has managed to cope with these events but continues to be at risk to additional hazards. The area has adequate housing structures with a good road network. However, as the community continues to develop its physical infrastructure, if left unattended the main risks including aged trees and improper garbage disposal can continue to threaten the poor drainage system and increase the risk of flooding.

Persons were very knowledgeable of the wide range of physical, financial and human resources available which include skilled workers, professionals, hardware stores and easy access to basic amenities. However, there was a general lack of disaster awareness which could significantly delay recovery time from such an event. This will pose a further threat to the vulnerable groups within the community including children, the elderly and the disabled.

Community spirit is very high and complements the strong social networks in existence. This is evidenced by the number of active community and religious groups which cater to varying needs such as health, disaster management, youth interests and sports.

### Secondary Information Needed and Gaps Identified

Type of Data	GAPS	Who/Where?
Inventory of Resources (emergency shelters, first aid posts transportation, communication capabilities etc.)	Need updated and precise information.	Rural Development Commission, LIME and Digicel, Department of Emergency Management
Climate data	Not readily available in user-friendly format	Caribbean Hydrology and Meteorology Institute, Adrian Trotman
List of NGOs and other donor agencies	Needs better coordination and awareness of availability	Community Development Department and Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment, Rural & Urban Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Health (Prevalence/ rate of various illnesses/diseases/STIs)	Not easily accessible	Glebe Polyclinic, Nurse Brathwaite, Nurse Payne, Dr. Douglin
Crime situation		Royal Barbados Police Force
Abuse/ alcoholism statistics		Ministry of Social Care, Barbados Statistical Services
Water & Sanitation (water testing etc re poor drainage)		Ministry of Health, Environmental Officer

### Direct Observation

Participants were asked to record what they noticed from their field visits throughout the community. Direct observation is a useful process of observing objects, people, events and relationships. It enables participants to validate any conclusions reached through other tools to help gain a more complete understanding of the community and the relationships between its members. A record of the results is shown below:

Predominantly extended families.	Multi-generation	Predominantly female-headed households	Oldest persons were females in their 90s
Water courses need clearing and wells should be placed well above water level	Many liming spots, bars and blocks mainly populated by young men	Transportation needs are well met	Mostly employed, some males were unemployed
A lot of breadfruit and mango trees, many kitchen gardens – good food capacity	Almost all houses have electricity	There are a lot of sloping areas which lead to flooding in low-lying areas	Some shopping done in the community
Easy access to the main road	Most houses have indoor plumbing	Excellent sanitation	Primarily Christian
Mostly wall structures, some timber and some timber/stone	Excellent road access although some roads need repairing	Doctor's office, pharmacies, polyclinic	Sports – playing fields (mainly), dominoes outdoors, liming activities
Some areas require debushing	New area developing east of Valley Development		

## Our Community's History

Historical profiling is a means of gathering information about what has happened in the past. It can help to build a view of past events that have an effect on the community and lead to a shared understanding of the community's history and identity. It is a powerful tool as people will better value past achievements and be stimulated to think ahead whilst looking at certain trends that may have emerged over time. Awareness of the patterns that arise can influence the decisions taken by the community members in the planning process of disaster risk reduction initiatives. Below is a table which shows the historical information collected by the community.

### Historical Profile

Year	Events
1780	St. George Parish Church destroyed by hurricane
1784	Church fully rebuilt
1831	Hurricane affects the area
1898	Hurricane affects the area
1945	First wall dwellings constructed in the area
1955	Hurricane (Janet) affects the area
1950s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public running water installed in Charles Rowe Bridge/Airy Hill/Harry Cox Road</li> <li>Electricity installed in 1953. Street lights were manually operated</li> </ul>
1960	Telephone service installed
1970s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheffield Pavilion, St. George Boys and St. George Girl's Schools were used as community centers</li> <li>St. George Secondary School built</li> </ul>
1972	St. George Secondary School opened
1980s	Localized outbreaks of Conjunctivitis (red eye) and Chicken Pox
1989	Sheffield Club promoted from Barbados Cricket League (BCL) to Barbados Cricket Association (BCA). Members of Sheffield on the Barbados and Scotland cricket teams.
1990s	Reifer and Goddard families suffered house fires
1992	St. George Primary School opened
1999-2000	Influx of residents from urban areas
2000	Opening of Chefette Restaurant in Charles Rowe Bridge
2001	Building of Valley Resource Centre
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hurricane Ivan affected the area - destruction of Seventh Day Adventist church at Foster Lodge</li> <li>House fire claims the life of an elderly man</li> </ul>
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flooding at Charles Rowe Bridge – crops and livestock lost</li> <li>Bridge Supermarket destroyed by fire</li> <li>House fire at Mary Edwards</li> </ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House fire at Sonia Garner</li> <li>Abandoned house at Price Road destroyed by fire</li> </ul>
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large Ackee Tree falls on house at Price Road</li> <li>Oldest person in the community (Leonora Branford) turns 98</li> <li>Largest existing family – Adams household (13 children)</li> <li>Largest known family ever to area – Gladys Gill (17 children)</li> <li>Domestic violence incident – head of female decapitated by male partner</li> </ul>



## Seasonal Calendar

A seasonal calendar helps to explore the changes taking place over the period of one year to show weather patterns, social and economic conditions, public events, harvest and other seasonal activities. Although there may be some variation due to certain events and religious observances falling on different dates each year, it can be used inter alia to identify periods of stress, hazard, debt and vulnerability. It highlights events throughout the year to tell us when to prepare; what are the best times to put on awareness activities and training or implement projects.

Events/Occurrences	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Security</b>												
Income												
Immigration												
Migration												
Burglaries												
Crop Season												
Domestic Violence												
Vehicular Accidents												
Harvest Time												
Rainfall Period												
<b>Health</b>												
Flu, Coughs and Colds												
Stomach Illness												
Water-borne Diseases												
Headlice												
Birth Rate												
<b>Hazards</b>												
Hurricane												
Fire												
Agriculture Fire												
Floods												
High Temperature												
Drug Trafficking												
Public Holidays												
Social Events (school sports, constituency fetes etc.)												
Excessive Alcohol Use												

## Livelihoods and Coping Strategies

Livelihoods can be defined as how people use the resources they have available to them to support their lives. This can involve earning cash income and growing food for subsistence. The amount of income and/or subsistence available will determine their ability to cope when facing a hazard or disaster. It is therefore a useful means of designing appropriate interventions to protect and strengthen livelihoods and improve resiliency and capability to withstand the impact of known hazards.

## Charles Rowe Bridge Community Livelihood Chart

Income – generation activity	Who does it?	% of people employed	% of Income Provided	What benefits exist?	What are the threats?	What alternative Livelihoods exist?	What alternative could be considered ?	Who Helps?	What activities could reduce loss of livelihoods?	How could this be achieved?
<b>Small businesses/Entrepreneurs</b>	Men/Females	8% -10%, 30%-60%	75% of total family income	None	Weather, recession, slow down of big projects	Work with the gov't and private sector	Real Estate Renting	Employees, Family	Active Marketing  Expanding  Providing other goods and services	Employ marketing officers  Introducing the young entrepreneur Scheme  Introduce community programmes
<b>Construction</b>	Males/females	8% - 10%	75% - 100%	Few health benefits  Sustains family	Injuries	Office Work  Self Employment		Firms Other Colleagues		Economic situation will need to be improved.  Find other job.
<b>Gov't Workers</b>	Male/Female	30%	60% - 100%	Health, Maternity NIS pension	Recession  Downsizing of businesses	Private sector  Self employment			Make oneself marketable.	Training  Getting additional skills  Starting own business
<b>Private Sector Workers</b>	Male /Female	35%	25% - 75%	Health, maternity	Companies laying off workers.			Family	Additional training.	Training

## Social Networks in Charles Rowe Bridge

	Groups & Institutions	Point of Contact	Telephone numbers
<b>Government</b>	Glebe Polyclinic	Nurse Brathwaite, Nurse Payne, Dr. Douglin	429-1680/435-1567
	Parliamentary Representative	Gline Clarke Michelle Watson(Admin. Asst)	228 – 1135/237-6217
	St. George North Constituency Council	Desmond Browne (Chair)Ann O'Neale (Officer)	435-4463
	District B Police Station	Steve Yearwood	233 - 5802/437-4396/437-4311
	Valley Resource Center	Miss. Sylvia Parris – Community Development Department Michelle Burnett	310 – 1700  437-0621
	Community Development Department	Miss Sylvia Parris	310 - 1700
	St George HIV/AIDS Committee	Dawn Moore	427-4507
<b>Business</b>	Chefette Restaurant		430 - 3430
	Carter's Bakery	Vilna McCarter	436-5211
	Couples Bar and Restaurant	Henderson Bruce	436 - 0567
	Bridge Supermarket	Mrs. Maria Trotman	427 - 5044
	Henley's Pharmacy	Henderson Greaves	436 – 7417 435 - 1915
	Discount Hardware	Sandy Morris	435 - 6416
<b>NGOs</b>	St. George Women Aglow	Pauline Rawlins Kathy Pinder	437 - 9727 433 – 2053
	St. George North District Emergency Organisation	Ricardo Yarde	425-2349
<b>Religious</b>	Charles Rowe Bridge New Testament Church.	Trevor Holder	429- 2948/238-2948
	Salters Church of God	Jefferson Allen	427 - 2157
	St. George Parish Church	Rev. Cannon Gregston Gooding	436-8794
	Charles Rowe Bridge Kingdom Hall		

## Analysis: Reducing Risk and Making the Community Stronger

We can transform our community by reducing how much harm a hazard can cause.

Main Vulnerabilities Identified	Capacities	Actions to Transform Vulnerabilities Into Capacities
Poor drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active community groups</li> <li>Masons</li> <li>Carpenters</li> <li>Teachers</li> <li>Emergency Medical Technician</li> <li>Community Resource Centre</li> <li>Churches</li> <li>Pastors</li> <li>Machinery</li> <li>Firemen</li> <li>Schools</li> <li>Small businesses</li> <li>Gas Station</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Supermarket</li> <li>Banking facilities</li> <li>Constituency Council</li> <li>Community is sustaining its economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more garbage cans in the community.</li> <li>Develop a clean-up and anti-littering campaign.</li> <li>Conduct debushing.</li> <li>Keep drainage clear.</li> <li>Install more wells.</li> <li>Proper and regular maintenance of the drains.</li> <li>Dispose of debris and garbage properly.</li> <li>Encourage government to instruct MTW workers that clear the gutters and roadside to immediately remove the debris instead of leaving it by the roadside to cause further drainage problems.</li> <li>Install concrete canals in the waterways and increase the height of existing concrete canals.</li> <li>Install metal grills at intervals within the last 100ft before wells.</li> <li>Ask government to clear drains during the dry season.</li> <li>Coordinate community members and machinery to clear drains.</li> </ul>
Pedestrian crossing		Place pedestrian crossings at Charles Rowe Bridge intersection but not in the corners.
Insufficient traffic lights		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DEO and community members approach government to install traffic lights at the Charles Rowe Bridge junction.</li> <li>Try to encourage the representative for your area to become more active in the community.</li> </ul>
Lack of awareness around disaster issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage residents to plant trees away from electrical wires.</li> <li>Make residents more aware of programs to improve their skills.</li> <li>DEO and the Red Cross can conduct joint door-to-door awareness activities and other awareness materials as the community is already aware of their presence.</li> <li>Implement educational programs or hand out more literature on what to do and who to contact in case of a disaster.</li> <li>Government can assist in advertising to build community disaster awareness.</li> <li>Train more interested and committed community-minded persons in disaster management skills so that they can in</li> </ul>

Main Vulnerabilities Identified	Capacities	Actions to Transform Vulnerabilities Into Capacities
		turn train other interested persons. • Distribute flyers on disaster awareness.
Unemployment and underemployment		• Targeted job/school fairs by the Barbados Community College and other skills training institutions. • Develop more programmes of interest to the youth
Bridge (safety)		Assess bridge structure, develop plan to make it more safe; debush the area around the bridge and canal.
Run-down houses		DEO can assess the houses and report them to the DEM and Ministry of Health for onward action
Poor street lighting		Implement more street lights
Aged trees		Assess the trees that are old and rotting and have them removed or trimmed.

Of the “*Possible Actions to Reduce Risk*” above, below are the ones we **CAN CHANGE** and do it for ourselves.

Change We CAN Do Now	Possible Actions to Reduce Risk
Poor Drainage	Carry out a clean-up campaign and educate the community on proper waste disposal methods.
Bridge safety/overgrown bush	Enhance the area around the canal by clearing the bush and planting various fruit and coconut trees.
Aged Trees	Remove and trim trees as needed
<b>INFLUENCE</b> change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• encourage installation of more pedestrian crossings</li> <li>• enforce speed limits</li> <li>• encourage regular waste removal services</li> <li>• bring cloth bags to supermarket</li> <li>• enforce fine for littering</li> <li>• disaster management education &amp; awareness</li> <li>• digging drains in community</li> <li>• targeted programs of interest to the youth</li> <li>• encourage joint working between the Red Cross, DEM and other government agencies</li> <li>• get government to install traffic lights in the area</li> <li>• ask government to clear drains during the dry season</li> <li>• encourage government to instruct MTW workers to clear the gutters and roadside to immediately remove the debris instead of leaving it by the roadside to cause further drainage problems</li> </ul>



### **Section 3 – Community Project Proposal Development**

An important component of the VCA process includes the empowerment of the community to take the necessary action to transform negative situations, as identified in the VCA exercise, into opportunities for sustainable development.

Below are three proposals as developed by the participants. In all instances, the proposals are based on what the groups recognized they CAN do themselves. Where necessary, the groups have also identified the issues or actions for referral to the relevant authorities.

## **1. Project Proposal for Reducing Flooding**

### **Problem Statement**

For the past number of years, the Charles Rowe Bridge community has been flooding due to inadequate drainage and improper disposal of garbage by the residents.

### **Objectives:**

To reduce flooding in the Charles Rowe Bridge community through regular maintenance of the drains and educational programs by September 2010.

### **Background:**

The Charles Rowe Bridge community has been affected by flooding historically. In 2008, the community was flooded. Three families were severely affected. The contents of these homes were damaged by water. One resident lost their livestock. Their pigs were washed away. The flooding in Charles Rowe Bridge is caused by inadequate wells and poor drainage in the area. The road running through the community was rebuilt so that more water could go into the wells. However, the wells cannot accommodate all of the water flowing from the area. This is made worse by the fact that residents do not dispose of their garbage properly and it ends up in the drains. The drains get blocked as a result and the community gets flooded.

### **Solution:**

To prevent flooding through clearing drains and wells in the community by encouraging the appropriate active community groups and agencies to tackle the drainage problem, encouraging the residents to dispose of their garbage properly and placing garbage and recycling bins (sponsored by various companies) in the community.

<b>Activities</b>	<b>When</b>
1. Have regular clean-up campaigns to debush the drains and other areas, remove debris and clean drains	Quarterly
2. Place garbage collection and recycling bins at specific locations across the community	By August 31 <sup>st</sup> 2010
3. Develop an educational program (including fliers and two community meetings) to inform the community of the importance of proper garbage disposal	By August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2010

**Budget**

Activities/ Material	Cost (Bds\$)
Shovels	900.00
Gloves	250.00
Boots	600.00
Backhoe rental	1,000.00
Cutlass/swords	300.00
Advertising	1,000.00
Water & food	400.00
Garbage bags	100.00
Truck rental	700.00
Educational flyers (printing)	1,800.00
Chainsaws	350.00
Garbage cans	200.00
Recycling cans	400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000.00</b>

**Required Resources:**

Human resources, Shovels, Gloves, Trucks, Rakes, Buckets, Ropes, Backhoe, Bins, Boots, Stationery

**Sustainability:**

To sustain the project we will make sure that the drains and wells are kept clear by assigning willing people in the community to check them monthly. The recycling campaign will also help to ensure that the community is kept clean and that the flooding is reduced.

**Partners:**

Barbados Red Cross Society, District Emergency Organization-St. George North, Community Development Department, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, Selected Members of Charles Rowe Bridge Business Community.

## 2. Project Proposal for Landscaping and Debushing of Canal

### Problem Statement

For the past number of years, the Charles Rowe Bridge community has been flooding due to inadequate drainage and improper disposal of garbage by the residents. The canal in question can aid in the reduction of flooding if the immediate area surrounding it was free of bush which acts as an attraction for indiscriminate dumping.

### Objective:

To debush and clean-up the canal and enhance its appearance by planting trees.

### Background:

The gully is a natural watercourse with a bridge across it built for pedestrian to access the two villages on either side. The bridge is over eleven years old. It poses an immediate threat for the health and safety of the residents and people using the area since it is overgrown with bush.

### Solution:

To provide and supply tools, materials and labor required to successfully complete the enhancement without taking away from the natural beauty of the area.

### Activities:

Clean up campaign, Meetings, Walk-thru, Production and distribution of flyers  
Media announcements, T-shirts, Planting of fruit trees, Procurement of tools, equipment and materials

Activities	When
1. Clean-up campaign	By August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2010
2. Meetings	By August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2010
3. Walk-thru & flyer distribution	By August 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2010
4. Media announcements	By August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2010
5. Tree planting	By September 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2010
6. Review	By September 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2010

### Budget

Activities/ Material	Cost (BDS\$)
2 Chainsaws - rental	200.00
4 Cutlasses/swords	120.00
Bobcat-rental	2,400.00
Truck - rental	2,400.00
Gloves, hard hats etc.	800.00
Freighting	300.00
Other equipment and materials	600.00
Meetings	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,820.00</b>

**Required Resources:**

- Manpower
- Funds

**Sustainability:**

Some of the male residents in the immediate surroundings of the canal have confirmed their willingness to maintain the area. In addition, the planting of the fruit trees will improve the overall livelihoods of the young males who will be able to generate income from the sale of the produce from the fruit and coconut trees.

**Partners:**

Barbados Red Cross Society, District Emergency Organization-St. George North, Community Development Department, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, Selected Members of Charles Rowe Bridge Business Community, Andrew Marshall.

### 3. Project Proposal for Road and Public Safety

#### Problem Statement

Due to the lack of pedestrian crossings, traffic lights, inadequate lighting and aged trees there is a threat to public safety. The lights in Charles were installed in 1970 in the most popular areas. Since then additional streets lights have not been installed to accommodate the expanding community.

The trees in the area have not been maintained. There are now a lot of aged trees that have become a risk to the residents as these could fall at any moment causing damage to houses, utility lines, roads and to humans. Overgrown tree branches are also a threat to utility lines.

Traditionally there was no pedestrian crossing in the area. In recent years a few have been put in place. However there is a need for additional pedestrian crossings in the community to ensure the safety of road users.

#### Objectives:

To improve public safety/reduce vulnerability in the community of Charles Rowe Bridge through the trimming and maintenance of trees in the community.

#### Activities

Activities	When
1. Identify and map trees	July
2. Meeting with community and relevant agencies	August
3. Get permission from Town and Country Planning.	
4. Notify residents of activities to take place	
5. Procure equipment	
6. Cutting and removal of aged trees and overgrown branches by community groups.	September
4. Project Evaluation /monitor trees with the community and District Emergency Organization.	October

#### Budget

Activities/ Material	Cost
Refreshments/catering	\$1,000
Communication & PR	\$2,000
Machinery	\$2,000
Equipment	\$2,500
Safety Gear	\$500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>

#### Partners

Town and Country Planning Department, Barbados Light & Power Company, St. George North Constituency Council, Barbados Red Cross Society, various community groups, churches within the community, residents, Charles Rowe Bridge business community.



## **Glossary**

**Capacity (C):** Combination of all the strengths and resources available within a community, society or organization which may reduce the level of risk, or the effects of an event or disaster.

**Coping Strategies:** The ways in which people manage and reduce the impact of a hazard.

**Disaster:** Serious interruption of the functioning of a community or society which causes loss of human life and/or important material, economic or environmental losses which exceed the capacity of the affected community or society to manage the situation using their own resources.

**Direct Observation:** A process of observing objects, people, events and relationships.

**Emergency:** A situation of a threat or actual hazard which requires an almost immediate response, to prevent or reduce harm. Often the affected community has the capacity to respond using their own resources.

**Hazard (H):** A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity, that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

**Historical Profile and Historical Visualization:** Tools for gathering information of what has happened in the past to tell how past events has had an effect on the community. These are represented as lists and a table of sketches respectively.

**Livelihoods:** The way people use the resources they have available to support their lives. For most people this means the method of earning cash income.

**Mapping:** A visual form to get an overview of the main features of an area in relation to its surroundings (Spatial map). It can also show dangers and exposed homes, services and infrastructure (Hazard and Vulnerability map); or resources and skills available in the community (Capacity Resource Map)

**Risk:** Probability of harmful consequences or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, interruption of economic activity or environmental deterioration) as a result of interactions between natural or anthropological disasters and conditions of vulnerability. It is sometimes expressed as  $(H \times V) / C = R$

**Seasonal Calendar:** Visualization over the course of the year of weather patterns, social and economic conditions, festivals and other seasonal activities.

**Social Network:** The community's key groups and individuals, the nature of their relationship with the community and the perceptions residents have of their importance.

**Vulnerability (V):** The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards.

## **Bibliography**

Terminology for Disaster Risk Reduction, International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction Updated March 31, 2004. <http://unisdr.org/eng/library/lib-tey> and Capacity Assessment:

VCA Toolbox with Reference Sheets. International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies 2007

### **Humanity**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

### **Impartiality**

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

### **Neutrality**

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

### **Independence**

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

### **Voluntary service**

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.

### **Unity**

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

### **Universality**

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

## ANNEX 1

### International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

#### Caribbean Regional Representation Office

#### STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING REPORT

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Accra Beach Hotel & Spa

<b>Purpose</b>
To formally introduce the project to the stakeholders in an effort to solicit their support and participation.
<b>Objective(s)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To inform the main stakeholders of the project and to develop partnerships in support of the initiative.</li><li>2. To develop a shortlist of target communities to aid in the selection of the two communities that will benefit from this project.</li></ol>
<b>1. Actions Undertaken</b>
<p>A number of actions were undertaken to make this meeting a success. These include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correspondence was sent out to the various stakeholders to introduce the project and to request introductory meetings.</li><li>• Introductory meetings were held with the following agencies;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➢ Urban Development Commission (April 9<sup>th</sup>, Derek Alleyne, Director)</li><li>➢ Rural Development Commission (April 7<sup>th</sup>, Sam Onyeche)</li><li>➢ Department of Emergency Management (April 12<sup>th</sup>, Judy Thomas, Director &amp; Simon Alleyne, Programme Officer)</li><li>➢ Barbados Fire Service (April 12<sup>th</sup>, Randolph Cox, Chief Fire Officer and Leading Fire Officers for each branch/department)</li></ul></li><li>• Formal invitations were sent out to the relevant agencies and Red Cross members.</li><li>• Logistical arrangements were undertaken including venue confirmation, catering, room layout, agenda and preparation of all meeting documentation.</li></ul>
<b>2. Outcomes</b>
<b>KEY POINTS</b>
<p>The President officially welcomed the participants to the event and encouraged their support and collaboration for the duration of the project and beyond. The European Commission was represented by Paul Mondesir who lauded the collaboration, highlighted EC support for existing regional disaster management programmes (approx. €11 million) including the Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), Regional Risk Reduction Initiative as well as Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Support to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Mr Mondesir congratulated the National Society on the launch of the project and encouraged continued visibility and collaboration between the EC and the National Society.</p> <p>Following an overview of the project, the group looked at the membership and role of the Community Disaster Response Team (CDRT), the National Intervention Team (NIT), challenges the nation faces around the role of teams and their added value in response exercises with civil authority. Clarification was provided on the complementary role of CDRTs, the importance of stakeholder collaboration and partnership to avoid duplication, the identification of vulnerabilities through the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) process and the community-based decision process for determining the area of focus in each community.</p> <p>The stakeholders participated in activities to help develop a short list of the communities that they identified as being some of the most vulnerable on the island. Communities identified were based on a range of vulnerabilities as they relate to hazards and disasters and include floods, fires, road</p>

accidents, sea surge, storm surge, tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, cave-ins, landslides etc. The list of communities identified based on the range of hazards and disasters is shown below:

Oistins, Halls Road, Charles Rowe Bridge, Skeete's Bay, Holetown, Speightstown, New Orleans, the wider Bridgetown area, Landsend/Westbury, Bayland, Major Walk, Greenfields, Nelson Street, White Hill, Hillaby, Baxters, Dark Hole, Park Road, Chalky Mount, Weston, Bank Hall.

The shortlist of communities is as follows:

- Oistins
- New Orleans
- Bank Hall
- Greenfields
- Charles Rowe Bridge
- Landsend/Westbury

The two communities that will benefit from this project will be chosen from this shortlist.

### **3. Follow-up required and Other Observations**

- The two target communities will be decided on by April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- The stakeholders will be duly informed by April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010
- The community awareness meeting and other activities will begin, followed by the other project activities once we have met with DEM, Community Development Department, the Ministry of Social Care and the Red Cross Governing Council.



## **ANNEX 2**

### **“Building Safer More Resilient Communities Project” Barbados Background Information and Baseline Study**



**Charles Rowe Bridge**

## **Introduction**

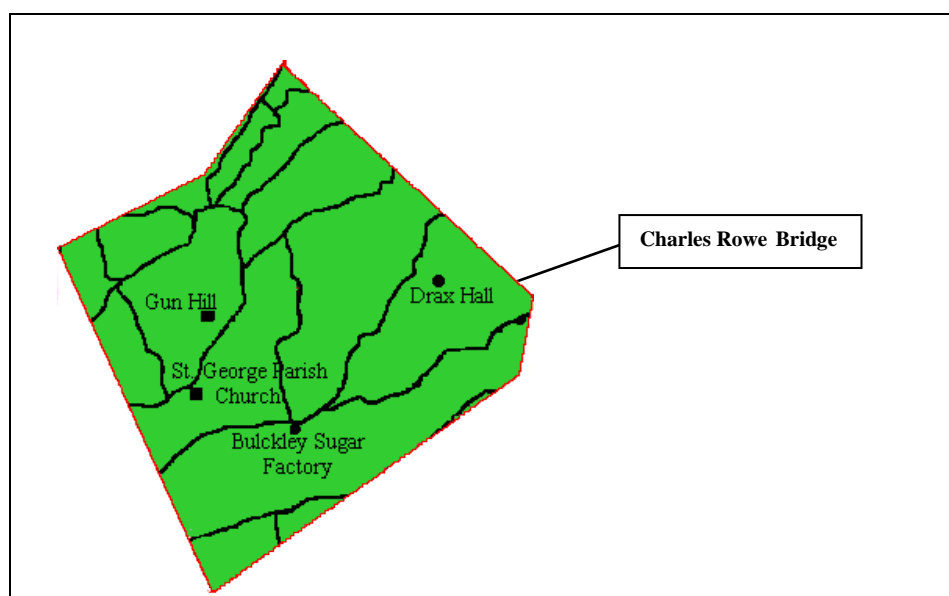
This baseline assessment has been conducted as one of the key activities ahead of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and supporting activities under the 'Building Safer, More Resilient Communities' project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). The assessment was conducted between the 19-26 of May and supplemented on 19 June by the Barbados Red Cross Society staff and volunteers including Deniese Dennis, Melanie Cameron and Tamara Lovell as well as St. George North District Emergency Office members including Patrick Tull, David Lucas and Rickie Yarde.

### **Official Community Name:**

Charles Rowe Bridge

### **Location of Community:**

St. George North Constituency



### **Main access route**

By road

## **Background Information**

Charles Rowe Bridge comprises the following communities, Lower Estate, Parish Land and The Valley. Charles Rowe Bridge is an inland community located in the parish of St. George. This parish is one of the island's two central parishes. The geographical coverage for this set of activities spans the Charles Rowe Bridge square, Valley, Parish Land and Lower Estate communities. According to the most recent population census (conducted in 2000 by the Barbados Statistical Department) the areas combined has a population of approximately 1,186 persons. Overall, there are 584 males and 602 females in Charles Rowe Bridge. Please see table below for a breakdown of age and sex distribution in ten year interval.

**Population: 2000 census reference**

584 Male

602 Female

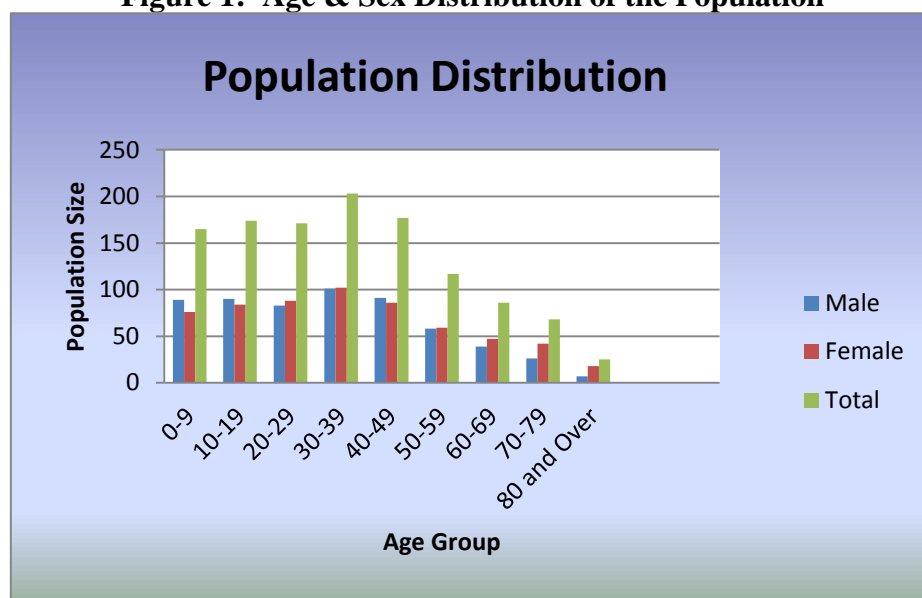
Total number: 1,186

**Table 1: Age and sex distribution in Charles Rowe Bridge**

Age Group	Lower Estate		Parish Land		The Valley		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
0 - 9	24	31	36	28	29	17	165
10-19	33	27	29	30	28	27	174
20-29	35	32	29	30	19	26	171
30-39	31	31	43	45	27	26	203
40-49	36	28	34	35	21	23	177
50-59	23	14	19	25	16	20	117
60-69	4	11	21	24	14	12	86
70-79	4	11	15	16	7	15	68
80 and over	3	2	3	9	1	7	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>1,186</b>

The table above indicates that 165 persons, approximately fourteen point nine percent of the population in Charles Rowe Bridge falls between the ages of zero and nine years old, while 174 people (14.67%) falls within the 10-19 year old age group. An estimated 53.32 % falls within the working age range of 20 to 59 years. The person between 60 and 69 years (86 persons) account for only 7.25% of the overall population. Seven point eight four percent (7.84%) of the Charles Rowe Community are 70 years and over.

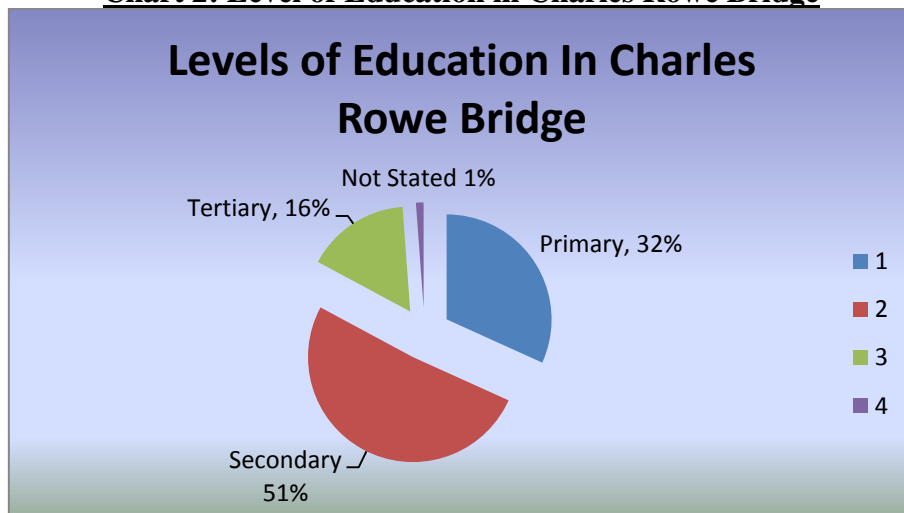
**Figure 1: Age & Sex Distribution of the Population**



**Education**

The highest level of education attained by thirty one point five six (31.56%) of the population in Charles Rowe Bridge is primary level education. Fifty point seven seven percent (50.77%) have acquired secondary level education. Fifteen point eight seven (15.87%) has tertiary level education while one point one seven percent (1.17%) did not state their level of education.

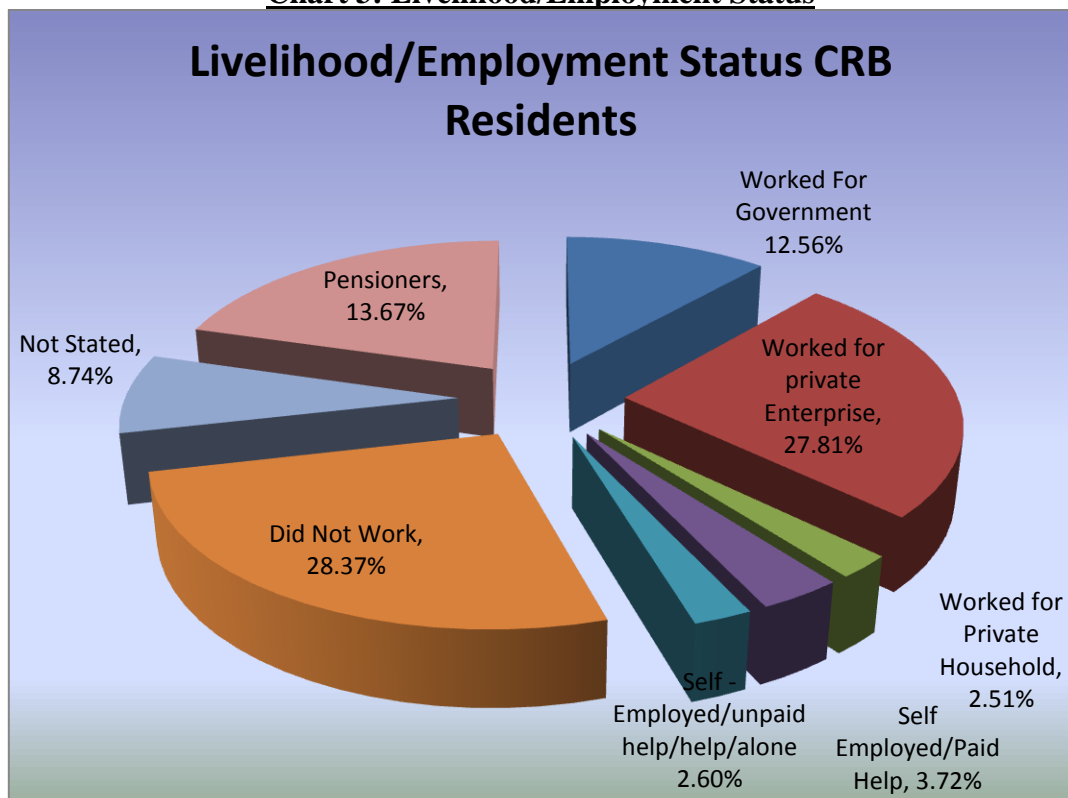
**Chart 2: Level of Education in Charles Rowe Bridge**



### **Employment**

According to the 2000 population census, when the working age population is combined with pensioners to analyse the livelihood of the community, a total of forty-one percent (41%) of the population was reported as being employed by private enterprise and government. About four percent (4%) was self-employed with paid help, while three percent (3%) was self-employed with unpaid help or worked alone. Twenty-eight percent (28%) did not work. Nine percent (9%) failed to state how they made a living. Fourteen percent (14%) were pensioners.

**Chart 3: Livelihood/Employment Status**



### Households

The three districts have a total of 345 households, 113 in Lower Estate, 134 in Parish land and 98 in The Valley. See table below for the breakdown of households by size.

**Table 2: House Size**

Community	Size of Household Groups				# of Households
	1 Person	2 – 3 Persons	4-7 Persons	More Than 7 Persons	Total
Lower Estate	22	42	47	2	113
Parish Land	22	54	50	8	134
The Valley	16	41	37	4	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>345</b>

### Types of Dwelling

Of the three hundred and forty – five (345) households in Charles Rowe Bridge three hundred and fourteen (134) are separate dwellings, twenty eight (24) were apartments or flats and three (3) were parts of a commercial building. Ninety four (94) of the houses outer walls are made of wood. One hundred and ninety four (194) are made from concrete blocks. Eighty seven of the outer walls of the houses in Charles Rowe Bridge are made of a combination of wood and concrete blocks and six (6) are made with concrete and two with stones.

### Security

According to the Royal Barbados Police (District B Police Station) the community of Charles Rowe Bridge is a safe community with no major crime issues. The District Police Station reported that there are a few young men who lime on “the corner” however they are usually respectful. In our interaction with the residents of the community we learned that two murders were committed in the community in the last twenty years. In one instance a man slit the throat of his lover. However no one could say for certain when exactly these events occurred.

### Water Supply

**Table 3: Access to Water Supply**

Water Supply	Community			Total
	Parish Land	Lower Estate	The Valley	
Piped into Dwelling	125	90	91	306
Piped into yard	4	18	5	27
Friend/relative's Pipe	1	3	1	5
Other		1		1
Not stated	2	1		3
Public	2		1	3

Three hundred and six (306) houses in the community have indoor plumbing and piped water. Twenty seven (27) dwellings have water piped to the yard. Five (5) get water from a friend or relative, three (5) from public pipes and three (3) persons did not state their water source.

## **Governance**

The parliamentary representative for the community is Mr. Gline Clarke of the Barbados Labour Party. The community falls under the St. George North Constituency. The constituency council in the community is chaired by Mr. Desmond Browne. There are a number of active community groups in the area; the District Emergency Organisation (DEO) is an active voluntary arm of the Department of Emergency Management in the community. The chairman is Mr. Ricardo Yarde. There is also an active HIV/AIDs Education Committee in the community.

## **Health**

The community has a polyclinic called the Glebe Polyclinic. There is also a private doctor that operates in the community. There is one pharmacy that provides service to the community. There is an HIV/AIDS Education Committee in St. George that serves the community. They provide information to the community on HIV and AIDS. There is also a focus on men's health under this program. A cholera burial ground is located in the community on the property of the St. George Parish Church.

## **Business/infrastructure**

There are a number of businesses in the community. There are several small shops and bars. There is a supermarket, a gas station, a Chefette restaurant, two bakeries, a pharmacy and two hardware stores. Other infrastructures include a community centre, The Valley Resource Centre, the Glebe Police Station, the Glebe Polyclinic, St. George Post office and the Glebe Public Market. There are also a number of self employed small business owners in the community.

## **Religion**

The community appears to be predominantly Christian. There are a number of churches in the community; St. George Parish Church (Anglican), Salters Church of God, Charles Rowe Bridge New Testament and The Kingdom Hall. The Lodge is also located in the community. Majority of persons in the community goes to church on a Sunday.

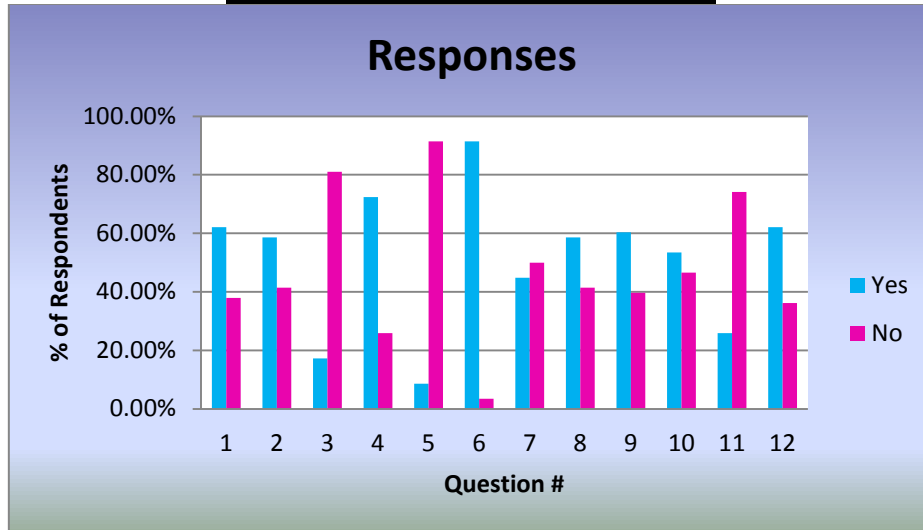
## **Recreation**

The community has two fields that are used for cricket and other activities. The Valley Resources centre is another important resource that the community has. It is the venue used for many important community events. Various educational and skills training activities are facilitated at this facility. The Gline Clarke building is also used for community fetes, karaoke is held there every Wednesday night.

## **Baseline Study**

An estimated 345 households are located in the Charles Rowe Community. Fifty eight of these were targeted for the baseline survey a total of 14.49%. A copy of the questionnaire used is attached at Annex 1. The data was collected between May 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. The head of the households were interviewed. A total of 23 males and 35 females were interviewed. The survey tested the level of awareness in the community around disaster management, prevention activities by the community and the level of preparedness to respond.

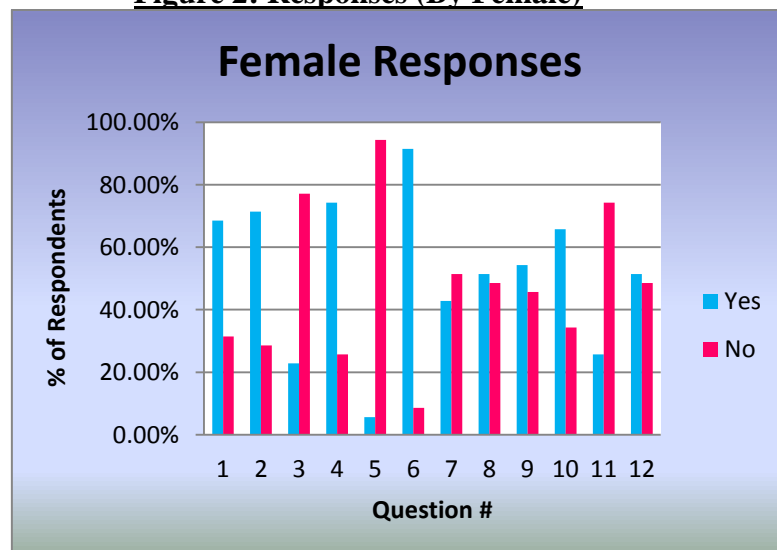
**Figure 1: Chart Showing Responses**



## Findings

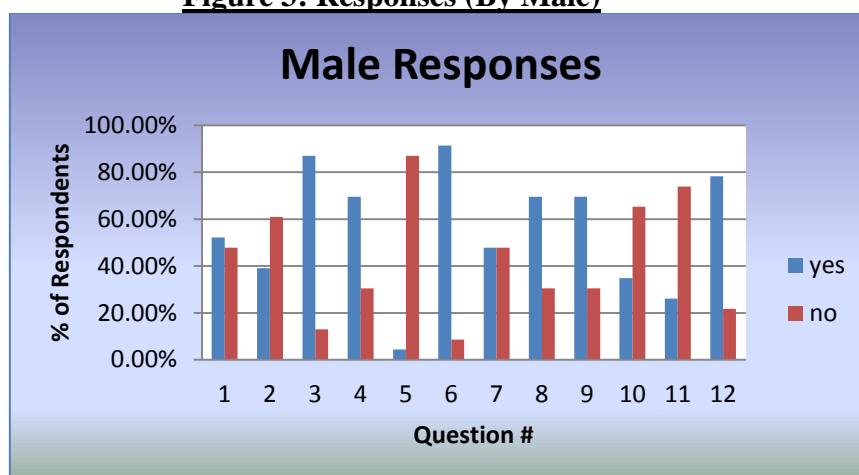
Just over sixty percent of the respondents report that the community had been impacted before. The most severe issue affecting the community mentioned was flooding. The most recent flooding occurred in 2008 affecting a section of the community during a period of heavy rainfall. Only fifty eight percent (58%) of those interviewed felt that the community was prepared to respond to an emergency. Eighty one percent (81%) of respondents said that the community did not meet to discuss disaster issues. Seventy two percent (72%) of the respondents were aware of the main risks to the community. Over 90% said that the community did not have a disaster reduction plan whilst over ninety percent (90%) knew where the community shelters are. Close to forty five percent (45%) of respondents felt that the shelters in the community were enough to meet the demand. Over fifty eight percent (58%) of the respondents could not identify the vulnerable persons/families in the community were. Sixty percent (60%) did not know the safe or dangerous areas in the community. Seventy four percent (74.14%) said the community have not done any activity aimed at reducing it's risks and sixty two percent (62.07%) did not feel that they were prepared to deal with an emergency that might affect their family or community at the moment.

**Figure 2: Responses (By Female)**





**Figure 3: Responses (By Male)**



### Gender Analysis

Sixty eight point five seven percent (68.57%) of females compared to fifty two percent (52%) of males felt that the community had been severely impacted in the past. Seventy four percent (54%) of females and fifty seven percent of males did not feel that the community was prepared to deal with any emergency at this moment. Other significant differences emerged in the fact that 51% of the female respondents compared to 70% of males were aware of who the vulnerable persons in the community were. Also significant was the fact that only 51% of women felt personally prepared to deal with any emergency that might affect their family or community compared to 78% of males. Eighteen percent (18%) and 33% of males did not know what the risks to the community were. Almost equal percentage of male and female respondents knew where the community shelters were and felt that they were adequate to meet the needs of the community.

### Analysis/Conclusion

The community appears to be generally aware of disaster issues. The members have a sense of what the risks are. The main risk identified during the baseline survey was that of flooding. While over seventy percent of the population has a sense of what the main risks were, it seems that most persons were focused on the flooding that takes place in the community. It is vital to however look at other areas and situations that could be potentially disastrous for the community.

The lack of community meetings to discuss disaster issues was identified. While there is a DEO in the community that is responsible for community response and awareness there seems to be a need for wider community involvement. The respondents were not aware of a community risk reduction plan. Although this is not a desirable situation, it presents a unique opportunity for the Barbados Red Cross and its partners under the “Building Safer, More Resilient Communities Project” to work with the CRB community to develop contingency plans that will reduce the risks and increase the capability of the community.

There is also much scope for community activities and initiatives focused on reducing risks to disasters. Greater attention needs to be given to the vulnerable persons and families in the community. In addition more work needs to be done to increase the level of preparedness and to build the confidence of the population in their ability to respond to such emergencies.

## ANNEX 1: BASELINE QUESTIONNAIRE

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ End Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of interviewer(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Sex of Interviewee \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Country:</b>	<b>Barbados</b>		
<b>Type of assessment:</b>	<b>Baseline study</b>		
<b>Name of community:</b>	<b>Charles Rowe Bridge</b>		
	<b>Question</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1.	Has the community ever been affected by severe weather, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc?		
2.	Do you feel that the community is prepared for a disaster at the moment?		
3.	Does the community meet to discuss disaster issues?		
4.	Are you aware of the main risks to your community?		
5.	Does the community have a disaster reduction plan?		
6.	Do you know where the community shelters are in your community?		
7.	Are there enough shelters in your community?		
8.	Are you aware of who the most vulnerable person(s)/families are in the community?		
9.	Do you know where the dangerous and safe areas in the community are?		
10.	Is there an updated list of the medical and first aid resources within your community?		
11.	Has your community ever done any activity or projects to reduce the risk to disasters?		
12.	Do you feel prepared to respond to any emergency that might affect your family/community?		